## Litter and Our Waterways

#### Keep America Beautiful 2022 National Litter Study

March 19, 2022



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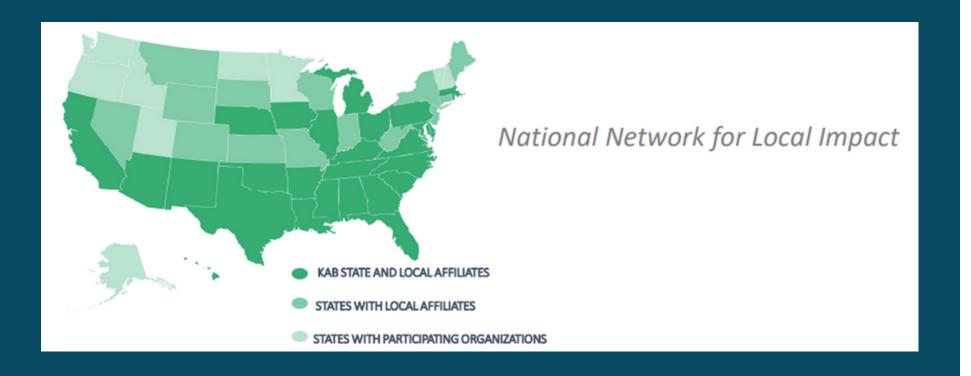


To inspire and educate people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment

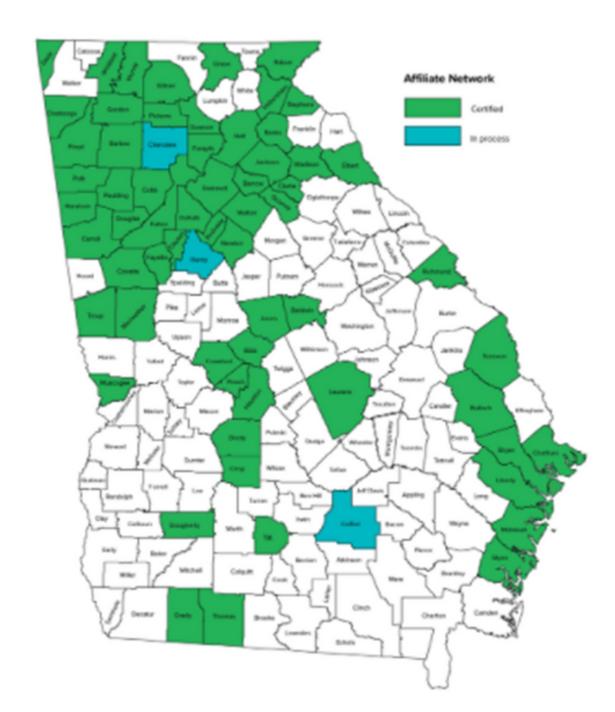


To educate and inspire
Georgians to take
action every day to
improve and beautify
their community
environment

#### KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL







# lead Research Partner BURNS MSDONNELL.

### Research team







\*The following information is sourced directly from the Keep America Beautiful 2020 National Litter Study Summary Report: May 2021

## Attitudes and (188888Ments)



- Nearly 50 billion pieces of litter along U.S. roadways and waterways
- Slightly more litter along waterways (25.9B) than roadways (23.7B)
- 152 items for each U.S. resident
- More than 2,000 pieces of litter per mile (both roadway and waterway)
- 90% of people surveyed believe litter is a problem in their state
- 6 billion pieces more than four inches in size
- Most littered item remains cigarette butts, but this litter is down almost 70%
- 207.1M PPE items littered

## Overall Key tindings

#### Decrease of 54% in litter along roadways

2009: ~ 51.2 billion pieces of litter were estimated along roadways

2020: ~ 23.7 billion pieces of litter estimated along roadways

#### Significant decrease in smaller roadway litter

Decrease in the number of items four inches or less, a decrease of 25.8 billion pieces of litter from 2009

#### Changes in material categories

Decrease: Cigarette butts, fast food, & soft-drink containers

Increase: Cardboard, beer containers, plastic film packaging, sports drinks, & water containers

#### Cigarette litter remains single most littered item

20% of total litter followed by plastic food wrap and film plastic (11% of total litter)

#### Most littered item by material group: Plastic

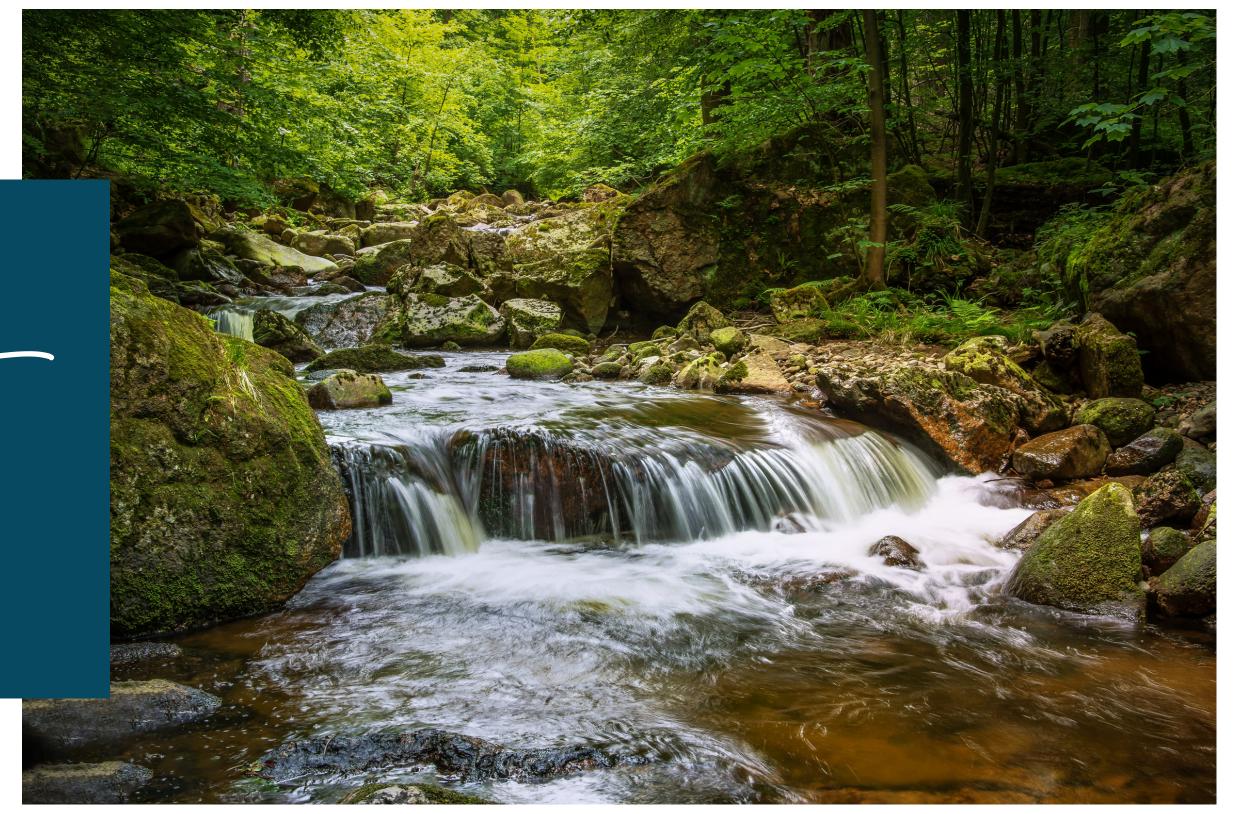
- 39% of total litter
- 42% of total waterway
- 48% of total litter greater than4" along road & waterways

#### 2020 COVID-19 PPE Related Items

- 149,279,000 gloves (almost 2/3rds along waterways)
- 57,863,200 masks

Waterway

(88e88Ment



#### NEARLY 26 BILLION PIECES OF LITTER,

11 Million Miles of waterways

#### LARGE PERENNIAL STREAMS HAD THE MOST LITTER ITEMS PER MILE

3,654 litter items per mile. Small perennial and intermittent waterways had fewer littered items per mile 3,141 litter items and 1,960 litter items respectively

### OVERALL INTERMITTENT STREAMS HAD THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF WATERWAY LITTER

Intermittent waterways account for more than half the total waterway miles

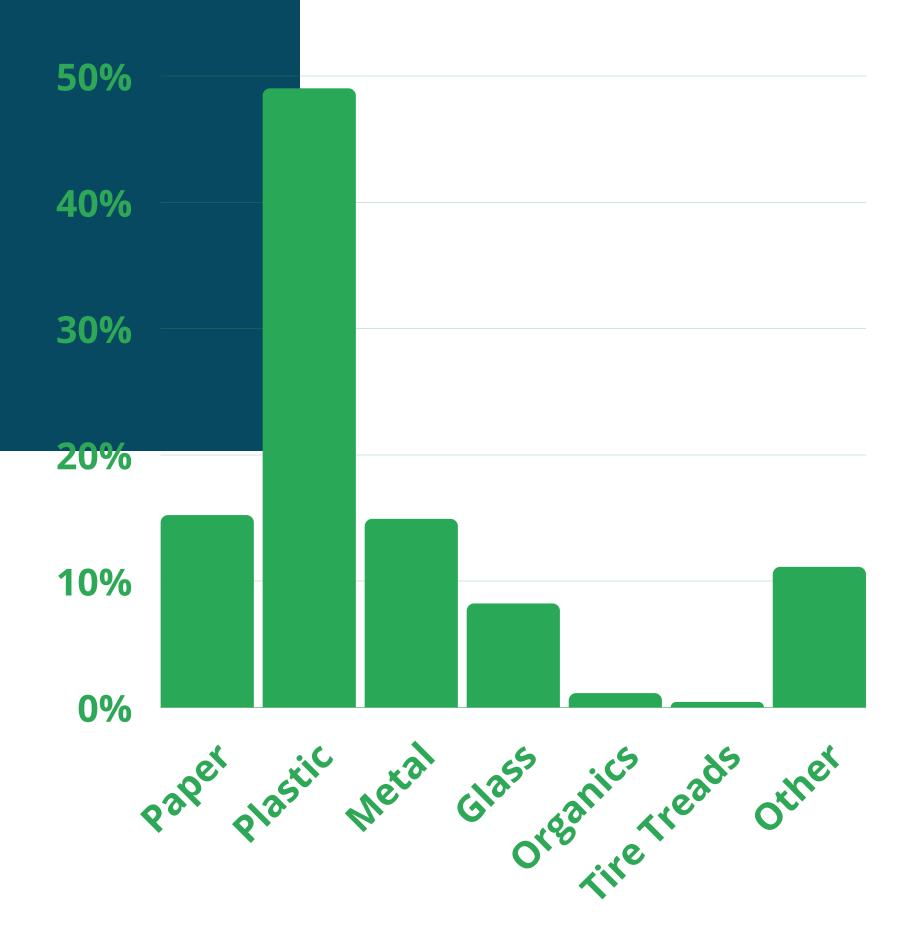
#### **WATERWAY LITTER**

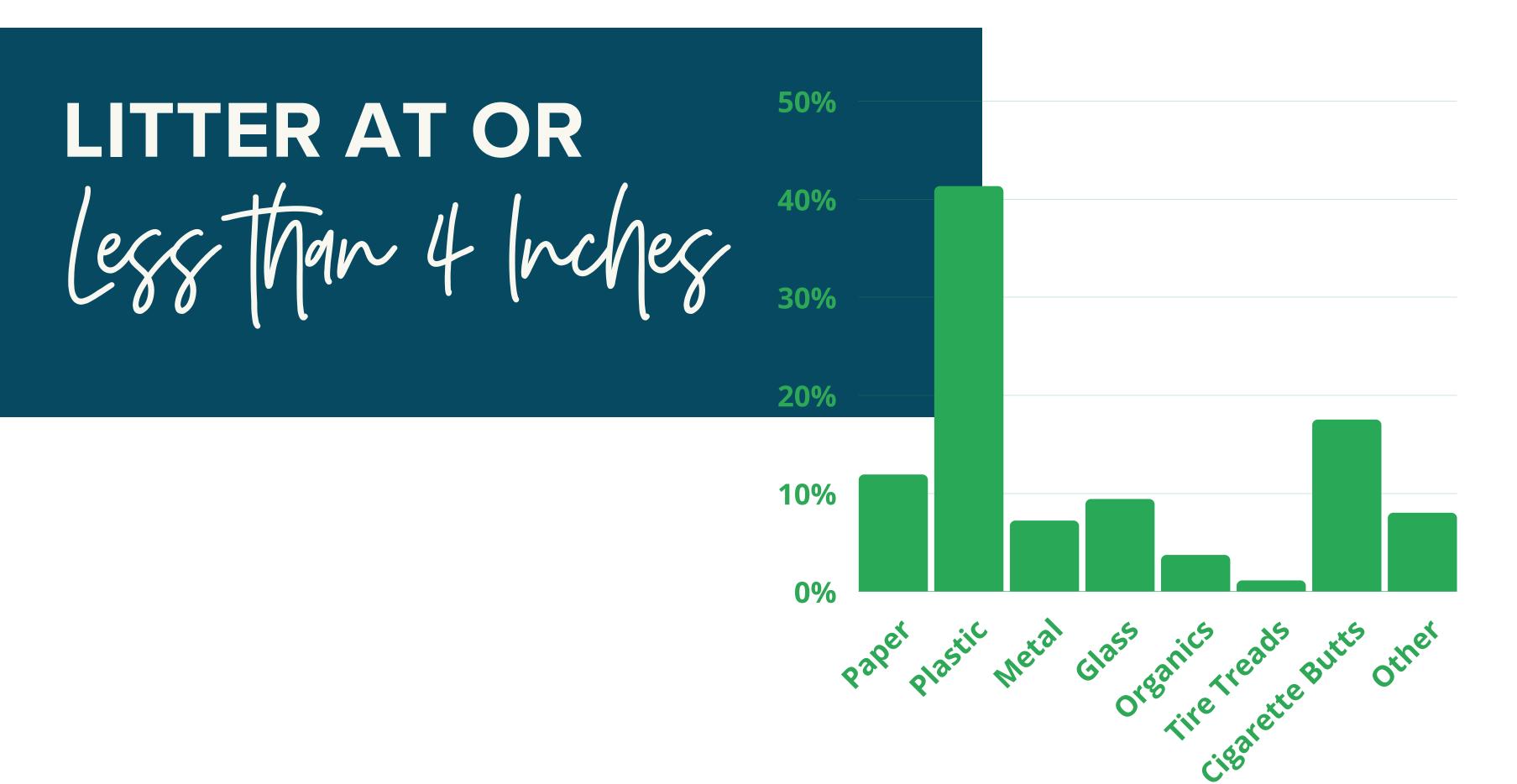
### Sources

- Pedestrians were the leading source of litter along waterways (43%) primarily along perennial waterways
- Motorists, due to proximity of waterways to roads, are the second largest source (36%) primarily along intermittent waterways.



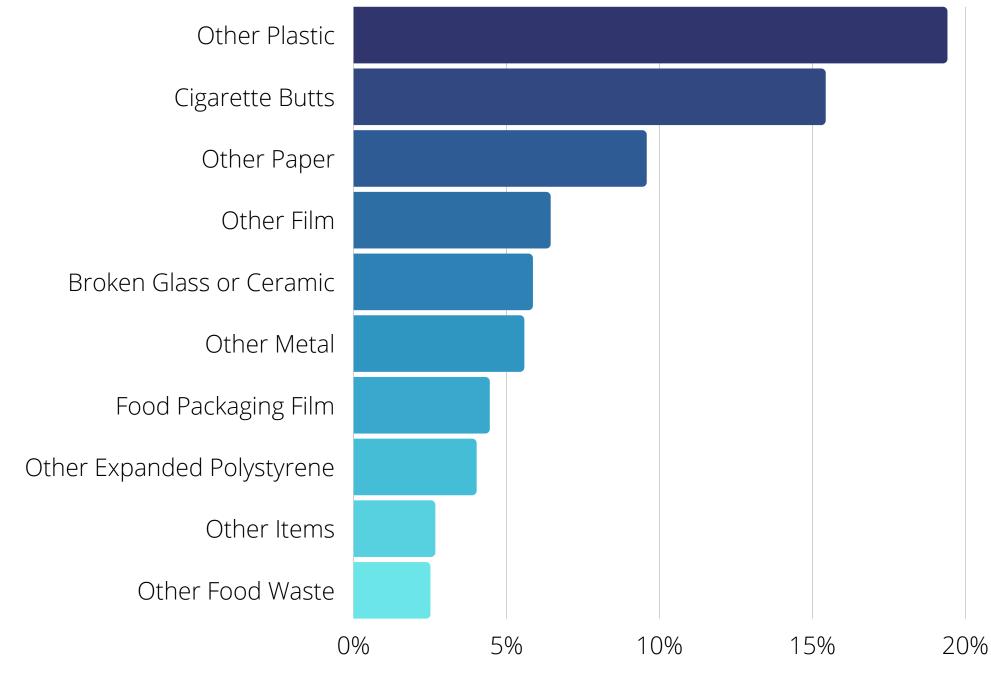
## LITTER GREATER Than 4 Inches





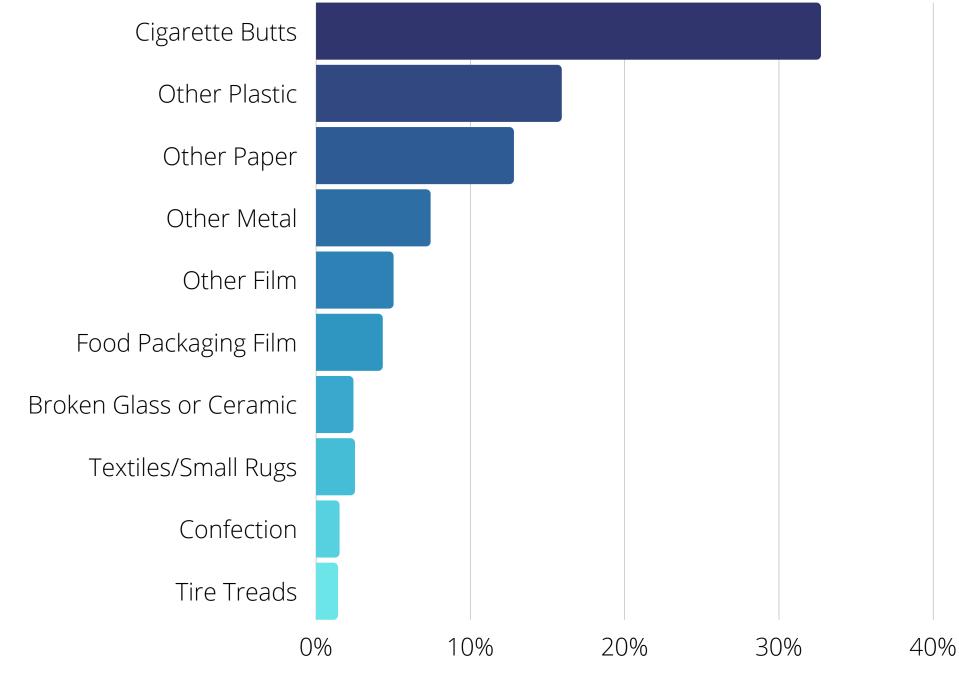
#### **TOP 10 LITTER ITEMS:**

Materways



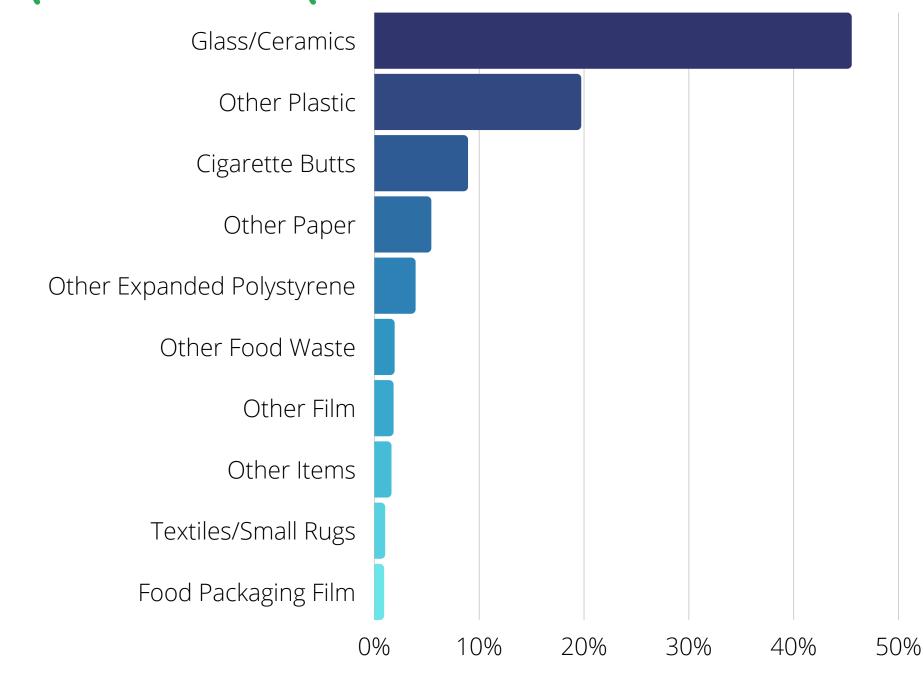
#### **TOP 10 LITTER ITEMS:**

Storm Drains



#### **TOP 10 LITTER ITEMS:**

Coastal Sites



#### Questions and

Connents



#### **MEAGAN WHITEHEAD**

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#### THANK YOU